

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 09943 250733Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /084 W
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R 250656Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7766
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9943

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJ: RESHUFFLE RUMORS REDOUND

1. RUMORNAOF A CABINET RESHUFFLE IN DECEMBER, SOMETIME BETWEEN THE 8TH AND THE 18TH, ARE CIRCULATING IN SEOUL AND IT APPEARS TO US THAT SOME CHANGES WILL, IN FACT, TAKE PLACE. THE ONE CANDIDATE FOR CHANGE, ON WHICH THERE SEEMS TO BE AGREEMENT, AT THE MOMENT, IS THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO. MINISTER SO, WHO HAS BEEN IN OFFICE FOR FOUR YEARS (LONGER THAN ALL BUT ONE OF HIS PREDECESSORS) IS HIMSELF GIVING THE IMPRESSION HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE HOLDING THE OFFICE MUCH LONGER. OTHER SPECULATION FOCUSES ON THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE FINANCE MINISTER, AND THE EDUCATION MINISTER. HOWEVER, SINCE THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS CRUCIAL TO THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OPERATE ALMOST ENTIRELY IN THE HEAD OF PRESIDENT PAK, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DEDUCE THE OUTCOME FROM EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. DEPENDING UPON YOUR SOURCE, THE COMING CHANGE COULD BRING A NEW CAST OF CHARACTERS, OR COULD INVOLVE MOST OF THE SAME PLAYERS MOVING TO DIFFERENT CHAIRS AROUND THE TABLE. IN ANY EVENT, ACTIONS OF THOSE MINISTERS WHO ARE
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REPORTEDLY CANDIDATES FOR REPLACEMENT ARE NOW BEING JUDGED IN LIGHT OF THEIR SUPPOSED INTEREST IN MAINTAINING THEIR PRESENT POSITION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. NO CABINET CHANGE IS LIKELY TO HAVE MUCH SIGNIFICANCE IN TERMS OF OVERALL POLICY ALTHOUGH IT MAY REFLECT,

INTENTIONALLY OR OTHERWISE, DEVELOPMENTS IN TONE AND
STYEL OF GOVERNMENT AND COULD BE PRELUDE TO CHANGE ON CURRENT
PROBLEMS. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT SPECIFICS AS THEY BECOME
AVAILABLE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 25-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PINT, KS
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